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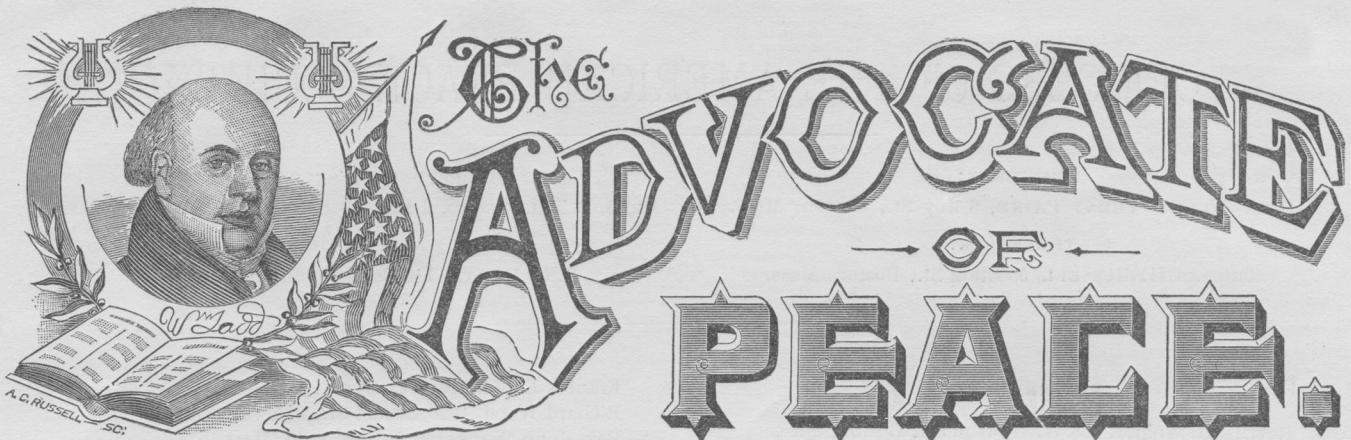
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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

A TREATY OF PEACE.

BY JAMES WOOD.

Address at the Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, — We have brought the consideration of this question to a very practical point; we are advocating a movement to put upon paper an arrangement that, because of the force of precedent, already practically exists. The British government and that of our country have established a precedent of settling their disputes by arbitration; the burden of proof now is on the other side, to break the line of precedent. The moral and legal status is in favor of arbitration to-day; and this force of precedent is even more binding upon the British government than upon our own.

I cannot conceive an issue arising between the two governments which would result in an appeal to arms. First, because of precedent; second, because of the force of public opinion,—and the British government is more sensi-

tive to public opinion than our own. We may have a Congress that does not represent public opinion upon some great question; the executive branch of our government may go on for four years in direct opposition to the opinion of the people; but in Great Britain the government must be in accord with the people, or a change immediately occurs.

We are often misled by what we think to be public opinion, because of the expressions in the public press. But many of the utterances of the public press are not really signs of the public opinion of the country, but of a wish to influence votes, and so to appeal to the passions of some particular nationality in the community. Much of the outcry against Great Britain in our papers has been for the purpose of influencing the Irish voters who are presumed to be opposed to British policy at all times and in all places.

Again, it is impossible to conceive of a resort to arms between these two countries, because of the fact that the sober judgment on both sides of the Atlantic would condemn it. First, and from the lowest standpoint, because Great Britain knows that it would be impossible for her to defend Canada, and we know that it would be impossible for us to defend our seaboard cities from the British navy; there would be everything to lose and nothing to gain. If there are any sensible people in this world, I believe a goodly proportion of them belong to the Anglo-Saxon race, and I believe that race has not fools enough to undertake such a thing. Then, as we get to a higher plane, there comes in the public sentiment of the masses of the people, which is opposed to it. On a still higher plane, these are two Christian nations, and in the gradual evolution of the true doctrines of our Saviour they are lifted to a plane too high to violate His commands, especially when it comes to slaying our brethren. I do not believe we need a treaty of arbitration in order to settle all disputes between Great Britain and the United States.

But we are advocating peace throughout all the world, and what can we do to further that end? We can conceive of no influence so impressive as for the world to see the great English-speaking peoples formally agreeing to settle all their disputes in this way. The world knows, notwithstanding all race feeling, that the English-speaking people are soon to rule the world. Thoughtful men of